

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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PATERSON BOARD OF EDUCATION VOTES TO EXTEND REMOTE LEARNING UNTIL JANUARY 19TH

District administration to deliver assessment of local pandemic circumstances by December 15th

PATERSON – Paterson Board of Education Commissioners voted tonight in favor of a resolution authorizing Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer to continue remote learning until Tuesday, January 19th, and providing for another assessment of local pandemic conditions by Tuesday, December 15th.

“Given the predominant local pandemic conditions, we cannot in good conscience, allow school buildings to reopen at this time,” said Board of Education President Kenneth Simmons. “I thank the district administration for their due diligence in gathering the data to enable the Board Commissioners to make an informed, scientifically-based decision that is in the best interests of Paterson Public Schools students, families, and staff.”

“The COVID-19 pandemic remains a dominant part of our reality. As much as all of us are looking forward to the time when students and teachers can be together again in school buildings, that time has not arrived yet,” Shafer said. “We will continue to keep the safety of our students and staff as our top priority and do everything we can to make students’ virtual learning experiences as engaging and as effective as possible.”

The resolution adopted tonight identifies the key points of the District’s assessment of current local pandemic conditions, which are:

- New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) data shows there have been 16 confirmed outbreaks of COVID-19 associated with in-school transmission since August, resulting in 58 new cases among students and teachers.
- Passaic County ranks third in the state in the number of new cases linked to in-school transmission.
- As a result, several schools in Passaic County – including The Haledon School, Pompton Lakes High School, Passaic Valley High School, Passaic County Technical Institute, and two Wayne elementary schools have suspended hybrid (in-person and remote) instruction for a time.
- The number of new COVID-19 cases is expected to increase during the winter holiday season.

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Also, the state's rate of transmission has been above the threshold of 1.00 that indicates the outbreak is growing throughout the state for more than five weeks.

The resolution also authorizes Superintendent Shafer to modify personnel and identify staff as essential and/or mandate in-district work as she deems appropriate to successfully run school operations.

As remote learning continues, principals, vice-principals, supervisors, registrars, secretaries, security guards and chief custodians will continue to work in school buildings. Child Study Team members and related service providers will continue to conduct evaluations in school buildings for eligible students.

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